

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 602

By Finney R.

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study the feasibility and desirability of establishing the Tennessee vulnerable adult abuse clearinghouse.

WHEREAS, only one (1) in twenty-three (23) incidents of adult abuse is reported to adult protective services (APS); and

WHEREAS, thirty-two percent (32%) of APS cases involve persons eighteen (18) to fifty-nine (59) years of age; and

WHEREAS, sixty percent (60%) of APS cases involve persons sixty (60) years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee in 2006, ten thousand one hundred and ninety-eight (10,198) adults received APS assistance, of which, three thousand two hundred and sixty-three (3,263) were between eighteen (18) and fifty-nine (59) years of age and six thousand nine hundred thirty-five (6,935) were sixty (60) years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, of persons identified by APS as perpetrators in 2006, eighty-four percent (84%) were related to the victim, sixteen percent (16%) were spouses, and forty-two percent (42%) were adult children; and

WHEREAS, fifty-eight percent (58%) of persons reported to APS in 2006 were victims of self-neglect; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee approximately two hundred eighty-nine thousand (289,000) adults ages sixty (60) years of age and older suffer from some form of dementia. One-half (1/2) of the demented persons have Alzheimer's disease. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of persons with Alzheimer's disease live at home alone. The combination of living alone with the diminished

ability to make rational decisions can be perilous and may result in devastating, even deadly, circumstances; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that a comprehensive study of Tennessee's resources in the field of elder abuse be conducted for the benefit of all Tennesseans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that there is hereby created a special joint committee to study the feasibility and desirability of establishing the Tennessee vulnerable adult abuse clearinghouse.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall be charged with examining the issue of adult abuse in Tennessee and the potential need for and feasibility of an information and resource clearinghouse to address these concerns and assist affected Tennesseans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall consist of twenty (20) members:

- (1) One (1) member from APS, to be appointed by the governor;
- (2) One (1) member from the American Association of Retired Persons Tennessee (AARP), to be appointed by the governor;
- (3) One (1) member from the District Attorneys General Conference, to be appointed by the governor;
- (4) The governor, or the governor's designee;
- (5) One (1) member from the Howard H. Baker Center for Public Policy, to be appointed by the governor;
- (6) The comptroller of the treasury, or the comptroller's designee;
- (7) The attorney general, or the attorney general's designee;
- (8) The director of the Tennessee bureau of investigation, or the director's designee;
- (9) Three (3) members from the Tennessee commission on aging and disability, one (1) from each grand division, to be appointed by the speaker of the senate;
- (10) The commissioner of commerce and insurance, or the commissioner's designee;

(11) The commissioner of finance and administration, or the commissioner's designee;

(12) The commissioner of health, or the commissioner's designee;

(13) The commissioner of mental health and developmental disabilities, or the commissioner's designee;

(14) One (1) member from the Tennessee Hospital Association, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(15) One (1) member from the Tennessee Medical Association, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(16) One (1) member from the Tennessee vulnerable adult coalition, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(17) One (1) member of the senate, to be appointed by the speaker of the senate; and

(18) One (1) member of the house of representatives, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the general assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commission members shall not be entitled to any remuneration or compensation. This provision should not prohibit any state employee from receiving regulation compensation from the state for work performed as both a committee member and a state employee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the general assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the general assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study committee shall conduct hearings and take testimony in the three (3) grand divisions of the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in conducting its study, the special joint committee shall give consideration and make recommendations relative to consolidation of abuse registries, public awareness and education, prevention efforts, medical profession issues, investigative agencies, coordination of investigations, services infrastructure, establishment of a clearinghouse and statewide reporting hotline, methodology to measure results, and a steering committee for a statewide adult abuse summit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Sixth General Assembly no later than January 15, 2009, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.